

Message Text

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TAGS:AORG, UN, SF

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AGENDA ITEM 6,
APARTHEID

REF; USUN 1226

1. IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM, US REP
SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH OTHER WESTERN DELS. SHOULD
INSTRUCTIONS BELOW LEAVE U.S. ISOLATED AS ONLY COUNTRY
VOTING AGAINST, YOU SHOULD ADVISE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO
ACTUAL VOTE.

2. WE COULD SUPPORT BULGARIAN AMENDMENT PARA 5 REFTEL IF
TERM "AZANIA" WERE CHANGED TO "SOUTH AFRICA." USE OF "AZA-
NIA" IMPLIES THAT EXISTING SOUTH AFRICAN STATE AND/OR
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GOVERNMENT ARE NOT LEGITIMATE, A POSITION WHICH U.S. DOES
NOT ACCEPT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, USE OF TERM "AZANIA" IN
PLACE OF "SOUTH AFRICA" IN UN RESOLUTION WOULD BE UNPRE-
CEDENTED AND A DEPARTURE WITH GRAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.
SECOND BULGARIAN AMENDMENT (PARA 6 REFTEL) POSES TWO PROB-
LEMS:

-- CALL FOR TOTAL ISOLATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIMES IMPLIES A LEVEL OF SANCTIONS WHICH U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE NOT BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT EVEN IN CASE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SUCH BROAD LANGUAGE IN CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

CALL FOR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO ADOPT REQUESTED MEASURES WOULD PROMOTE POLITICIZATION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. CONSISTENT US POSITION HAS BEEN THAT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES EXIST TO PERFORM SPECIFIC TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE OR OUGHT TO BE PERFORMED APART FROM POLITICS. MOREOVER TOTAL ISOLATION IMPLIES EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THOSE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER, POSSIBLY WITHOUT REFERRAL TO GOVERNING CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

3. IF BULGARIAN AMENDMENTS ARE VOTED ON SEPARATELY, USDEL SHOULD VOTE NO ON BOTH.

4. WITH REGARD TO BULGARIAN AMENDMENT OF PARA 6 REFTTEL, USDEL MAY WISH TO SUGGEST FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE, WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG: "URGES ALL GOVERNMENTS, THE UN, AND THE APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES, NGO'S AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UN TO ADOPT MEASURES WITHIN THEIR POWER TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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5. WITHOUT RESPECT TO REMAINDER OF RESOLUTION, USDEL WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST IF RESOLUTION CONTAINS THE LANGUAGE OF PARA 6 REFTTEL. YOU MAY ACCOMPANY NO VOTE WITH EXPLANATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "US IS WHOLLY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID AS A PROFOUNDLY UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL SYSTEM WHICH INJURES ITS PERPETRATORS AS WELL AS ITS VICTIMS. WE HAVE URGED BASIC, PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND, WHEN NO SUCH CHANGE WAS FORTHCOMING, WE TOOK STEPS CALCULATED TO ATTENUATE AN ALREADY RESERVED RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE NATURALLY OPPOSED TO THE INHUMAN EFFECTS OF APARTHEID ON WOMEN AND BELIEVE THAT ELEMENTS OF THIS RESOLUTION REPRESENT A NECESSARY AND COMMENDABLE EFFORT TO BRING THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO TAKE STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN. WITH CERTAIN MINOR MODIFICATIONS, WE COULD HAVE VOTED FOR THIS RESOLUTION AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED. THEREFORE WE NOTE WITH REGRET THE INSERTION OF AMENDMENTS BY A NATION WHICH HAS MADE NO FINANCIAL OR OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMELIORATION OF

WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA -- AMENDMENTS WHICH HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO DO ANYTHING BUT VOTE AGAINST THIS OTHERWISE LAUDABLE RESOLUTION. THESE AMENDMENTS ARE POLITICALLY DESTRUCTIVE, DEVISIVE AND, FAR FROM IMPROVING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, COULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE SUPPORTERS OF APARTHEID BY GIVING THEM TWO MISTAKEN IMPRESSIONS.

THE FIRST IS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS MEANS TO CHALLENGE THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE SECOND IS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID MAY NOT BE TOTAL. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THESE UNPRODUCTIVE AMENDMENTS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DELETED."

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6. IF "AZANIA" REMAINS IN RESOLUTION MISSION SHOULD VOTE AGAINST WITH EXPLANATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: US IS WHOLLY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID AS AN UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL SYSTEM WHICH INJURES ITS PERPETRATORS AS WELL AS ITS VICTIMS. WE HAVE URGED BASIC, PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND, WHEN NO SUCH CHANGE WAS FORTHCOMING, WE TOOK STEPS CALCULATED TO ATTENUATE AN ALREADY RESERVED RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO THE DEPLORABLE EFFECTS OF APARTHEID AND BELIEVE THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS IN GENERAL A NECESSARY AND COMMENDABLE EFFORT TO BRING THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO TAKE STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO VOTE AGAINST THIS RESOLUTION EVEN THOUGH WE SUPPORT ITS AIMS BECAUSE OF THE USE OF THE TERM "AZANIA" IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA IS A STATE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS ITS GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF HOW WE FEEL ABOUT POLICIES OF THAT GOVERNMENT. AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA HAS THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING THE OBLIGATION TO COOPERATE IN PROMOTING RESPECT FOR AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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